

**Announcement**  
**Survey for School Mental Health Program Directors**

Project investigators Drs. Sharon Stephan, Nancy Lever, and Nicole Evangelista, and Ms. Jennifer Gibson (Center for School Mental Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine) are pleased to invite School Mental Health Program Directors to **participate in a project on best practices for training community based mental health professionals to effectively work in schools.**

Community based mental health professionals are trained to deliver services within the community and are often not trained to deliver services within schools (Paternite et al., 2006); thus, it may be challenging for community based mental health professionals to integrate their expertise within the school culture. A better understanding of the knowledge, skills, and abilities for community based mental health professionals to effectively *work in schools* is needed, as well as developing best practices for educating and training in these areas. We are interested in your thoughts on the competencies that mental health professionals need to effectively work in schools, as well as how you currently educate/train your staff in these areas.

If you are a School Mental Health Program Director, you can participate by completing the online survey (see below), which asks you to rate each school-specific competency on its level of importance for effectively delivering mental health services in schools, as well as to indicate how you educate or train your staff to be competent in these areas. **It will take you approximately 15-20 minutes to complete the study, and the deadline to participate is June 15, 2011.** The survey is anonymous, but you can elect to provide contact information so that the research team can follow-up with you regarding training resources.

This project is part of the goals and objectives of the Center for School Mental Health at the University Of Maryland School Of Medicine. We are excited about your potential contribution to this project and to the school mental health field. Please contact Nicole Evangelista at [410-706-1456](tel:410-706-1456) or [nevangel@psych.umaryland.edu](mailto:nevangel@psych.umaryland.edu) with questions or concerns about this study.

**To complete the survey, please click on the following link:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J3VTTVJ>